AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester and including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier to the requester, the method comprising:

> providing supplier registration information from the requester to a registration component;
>> ~~and~~
>
> downloading an RFQ generation engine to the requester;
>
> after the RFQ generation engine is downloaded to the requester, using the RFQ generation engine at the requester to enter the job information into a predetermined RFQ template, the RFQ template having a plurality of fields comprising:
>> a category field,
>>
>> a job description field for the requested job,
>>
>> an award criteria field indicative of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier,
>>
>> a date of delivery field, and
>>
>> an expiration date field indicative of an expiration date for the RFQ;
>
> using the processor to save the RFQ template at a predetermined location in a data store local to a computer system at the requester~~, such that the RFQ template is exposed for receiving a request for downloading to a supplier for generation of the response~~; and
>
> using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index remote from the computer system of the requester ~~when the RFQ template is saved at the data store local to the requester without prompting from the remote index, wherein the remote index is accessible by one or more supplier computer systems, wherein each index entry identifies an RFQ for which the requester thereof solicits a response, and wherein the indexing information identifies the data store where the RFQ template is stored~~;

receiving, at the requester, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

automatically evaluating the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template and identifying a supplier based on the evaluation.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester and including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier to the requester, the method comprising:

entering the job information into a predetermined RFQ template, wherein ~~entering~~ the job information is entered into the RFQ template by the requester and comprises: ~~entering requester~~

filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template,[[;]]

an expiration date of the RFQ,

a category and description of the requested job, and

an award criteria;

using the processor to save the RFQ template ~~at a predetermined location in a data store local to a computer system at the requester, such that the RFQ template is exposed for downloading to a supplier for generation of the response~~; and

using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index remote from the computer system of the requester ~~when the RFQ template is saved at the data store local to the requester without prompting from the remote index, wherein the remote index is accessible by one or more supplier computer systems, wherein each index entry identifies an RFQ for which the requester thereof solicits a response, and wherein the indexing information identifies the data store where the RFQ template is stored~~

receiving, at the requester, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more

suppliers; and

evaluating the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 13 wherein sending indexing information comprises:

sending requester filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template.

15. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 11 and further comprising:

receiving a reply to the RFQ template from a supplier.

16. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 15 wherein entering the job information comprises:

entering award criteria indicative of criteria considered in awarding a job corresponding to the RFQ to a supplier.

17. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 16 and further comprising:

evaluating the received reply based on the award criteria; and

suggesting a winning supplier based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

18. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 17 wherein evaluating comprises:

weighting the award criteria according to a predetermined weight.

19-37. (Cancelled)

38.   (New) A computer implemented method that employs a processor, the method comprising:

registering with an RFQ index builder;

receiving an RFQ template at a supplier computing system describing a requested job from the RFQ index builder, the RFQ template being generated by a manufacturer

and including:

a category and description of the requested job,

an award criteria for the requested job,

a date of delivery field, and

an expiration date of the RFQ;

using an RFQ reply engine at the supplier computing system to generate a reply to the RFQ template by providing information requested in the RFQ template; and

transmitting the reply from the supplier computing system to a manufacturer that generated the RFQ template.

39. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further including filter criteria accessible by the suppliers to identify RFQs for reply.

40. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a geographic location for the service provider.

41. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

42. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

43. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for quantity of goods.

44. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for quantity of goods.

45.   (New) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ) indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services by a supplier to a manufacturer, the method comprising:

    providing an RFQ template using an RFQ generation engine at a manufacturer computing system, the RFQ template having a plurality of fields for receiving job information pertaining to a requested job, the plurality of fields including:

        a job category field,

        a job description field,

        a delivery date field,

        a location field, and

        an award criteria field;

    receiving award criteria into the award criteria field indicative of criteria considered by the manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier;

    saving the RFQ template in a data store local to the manufacturer computing system;

    sending indexing information for the RFQ template.

46.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, wherein the plurality of fields in the RFQ template further comprises an RFQ expiration date field.

47.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, wherein the plurality of fields in the RFQ template comprises a supplier pre-designation field, and wherein receiving job information comprises receiving manufacturer filter criteria into the supplier pre-designation field indicative of particular suppliers that are authorized by the manufacturer to reply to the RFQ template.

48. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, and further comprising:

    sending manufacturer registration information from the manufacturer computing system to a registration component; and

    downloading the RFQ generation engine to the manufacturer computing system, wherein the RFQ generation engine sends the index information to a remote index component over a network.

49. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the category including a code.

50. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the RFQ template further including a quantity of goods.